

I urge you not to make a bad situation worse by loosening ownership restrictions even more. Radio has already been all but destroyed by the 1996 Telecomm Act. Real competition (or from my perspective as a listener - choice) is all but gone.

I only listen to noncommercial radio - the rest is unlistenable - loaded with commercials, endless repetition of the same few pieces of music, or populated by stupid, loudmouth, nasty shock jocks or talk hosts.

Statistics show that radio listenership is declining overall, and no wonder. Radio (and TV) are now programmed by bean counters, not broadcasters. Their only interest is in fattening their bottom lines through ad saturation.

The media conglomerates claim they give us (the audience) what we want, but this is like the managers of a cafeteria in a prison saying that because the inmates eat the food that it's evidence they're giving the people what they want!

So, people flee to the internet, pay services, anything. And what happens? These cancerous conglomerates buy out, or use legislation to otherwise destroy anything creative and worthwhile that comes along, and use their already vast wealth and power to get the government (in this case the FCC) to help them.

I know that much of the fault lies with Congress for this whole mess, but Mr. Powell is adding insult to injury. Mr. Powell has said he has great faith in the "free market" - but we don't have a free market. We have a situation of near monopoly already. Media in this country stinks! I can learn more about what's happening in the US from broadcasts that come over the border from Canada. It's pathetic, and getting worse every year.

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